

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY
STATE OF MISSOURI**

| | | |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| ANGELA MALCICH, |) | |
| |) | |
| Plaintiff, |) | |
| |) | |
| v. |) | Cause No.: 4:20-CV-01030 |
| |) | |
| ST. LOUIS COUNTY, |) | Jury Trial Demanded |
| |) | |
| and |) | |
| |) | |
| TROY DOYLE, in his individual |) | |
| capacity only, |) | |
| |) | |
| and |) | |
| |) | |
| ALEXIS WOODS, in her individual |) | |
| capacity, |) | |
| |) | |
| and |) | |
| |) | |
| MICHELLE WRIGHT-BERRY, in her |) | |
| individual capacity, |) | |
| |) | |
| and |) | |
| |) | |
| BRIAN MITCHELL, in his individual |) | |
| capacities, |) | |
| |) | |
| and |) | |
| |) | |
| NATHANIEL MELLENTHIN, in his |) | |
| individual capacity, |) | |
| |) | |
| and |) | |
| |) | |
| CONNIE HEITMAN, in her individual |) | |
| capacities, |) | |
| |) | |
| and |) | |
| |) | |
| JANET DUWE, in her individual capacity |) | |
| |) | |
| and |) | |

)
ROBERT ADAMS, in his individual capacity)
)
Defendants.)

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

Parties and Jurisdiction

1. Plaintiff Angela Malcich (hereinafter “Plaintiff”) is, and was at all times relevant herein, the mother of Daniel Stout (hereinafter “Stout”). Plaintiff is the appropriate party to bring this action on behalf of all members of the class for wrongful death pursuant to R.S.Mo. §537.080(1).

2. Defendant St. Louis County, Missouri (hereinafter “St. Louis County”) is a political subdivision of the State of Missouri and operates the Buzz Westfall Justice Center (hereinafter “Justice Center”) through its Department of Justice Services. It also provides healthcare services to inmates of the Justice Center through the Corrections Medicine Program operated by the St. Louis County Department of Public Health.

3. St. Louis County is a public governmental body as defined by the Missouri Sunshine Law, § 610.010, R.S.Mo. See also, Missouri Const., Art. IV, § 12; Chapter 27 of the Missouri Revised Statutes.

4. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant Troy Doyle was the Acting Director of the Justice Center. He is sued in his individual capacity.

5. At all times relevant hereto, Defendants Alexis Woods, Michelle Wright-Berry, Brian Mitchell and Nathaniel Mellenthin were corrections officers employed by St. Louis County through the Justice Center. They are sued in their individual capacities only.

6. At all times relevant hereto, Defendants Connie Heitman, Janet Duwe, and Robert Adams were nurses employed by St. Louis County working in the Justice Center. They are sued in their individual capacities only.

7. At all times relevant herein, Defendants were acting under color of state law.

8. Jurisdiction is proper in this Court as more factually set forth herein.

9. Venue is proper pursuant to RSMo §§ 508.010 and 508.060, in St. Louis County, Missouri as the county where Plaintiff was first injured by the wrongful acts and/or negligent conduct of Defendants alleged herein and/or as the circuit court in which Defendant St. Louis County is situated.

Facts Common to All Counts

10. Plaintiff Angela Malcich is the only individual within the class prescribed by R.S.Mo. § 537.080(1).

11. Stout was incarcerated in the Justice Center, a jail located in St. Louis County, from June 3, 2019 to June 11, 2019. He was transferred to the Eastern Reception, Diagnostic & Correctional Center (“ERDCC”) at Bonne Terre, a prison within the Missouri Department of Corrections, on June 11, 2019.

12. Stout died on June 11, 2019, less than one hour after being transferred from the Justice Center to ERDCC.

13. Upon information and belief, at the time of his death Stout had not had a bowel movement in 8 days. He notified staff of his medical situation and the nursing staff only gave him medication for constipation.

14. A few hours before his transportation to ERDCC, Stout repeatedly asked to see the nurse. Upon information and belief, he was told he would have to wait until morning to see the

nurse. The following morning, June 11, 2019, he was not provided medical care or treatment before he was put in a transport vehicle and taken on the hour-long trip to ERDCC.

15. Prior to being transported to ERDCC Stout vomited numerous times and complained of ongoing stomach pains. One corrections officer noted that his vomit resembled “motor oil.”

16. Even though Stout had been vomiting before he was put in the transport van, he was not permitted to see a nurse before he was transported.

17. Upon information and belief, by the time Stout arrived at ERDCC he was vomiting coagulated blood and emergency responders were called to the prison. By the time they arrived, Stout was already dead.

18. On June 12, 2019, Dr. Russell D. Deidiker performed an autopsy on Stout, which determined Stout’s cause of death was peritonitis due to a perforated duodenal ulcer.

19. St. Louis County has repeatedly and deliberately violated inmates’ constitutional rights through a custom and practice of failing to provide for the medical needs of inmates both before and after Stout’s death. Before Stout’s death on June 11, 2019, 3 inmates died as a result of this failure:

a. On or about January 18, 2019, Larry “Jay” Reavis¹ (“Reavis”) died after one or more county employees failed to provide medical care, knowing he was detoxing and had tremors, paroxysmal sweats, anxiety, agitation, headaches, diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting. Even after it was reported to a guard that Reavis may have had a seizure, and he was seen shaking so badly that he could not hold a cup, he was not provided medical care until he was found unresponsive in his cell and already in rigor mortis.

¹ Reavis v. St. Louis County, et al, 4:19-cv-02916

b. On or about February 23, 2019, John M. Shy (“Shy”) bled to death from an intestinal hemorrhage, despite two nurses witnessing him lying in blood and groaning for at least 15 minutes before anyone entered his cell. He was reported to have been screaming from his cell for about seven hours before he died, with one staffer stating if Shy “don’t be quiet,” he would be put in a restraint chair, essentially punishing him instead of treating his medical condition. The call button Shy could use to ask for help had been muted by jail staff.

c. On or about March 1, 2019, Lamar Catchings (“Catchings”) died from treatable leukemia because he did not receive appropriate medical treatment. About two weeks before he died, Catchings stopped eating and complained of hearing loss. A week before he died, he was so weak he was unable to walk out of court and needed a wheelchair. Even after two preventable deaths, Catchings died just days after a jail staffer, believed to be a nurse, accused him of “f---ing faking.”

20. After four deaths involving the Justice Center, to include Stout, Jo’Von Mitchell (“Mitchell”) died on December 27, 2019. Before being transported to the hospital, he was unable to get off the floor to visit a family member, was having trouble walking, and complaining of pain, which was ignored by Justice Center staff. A correctional officer took the time to complete his rounds after finding Mitchell unresponsive in his cell. He then falsified his report to make it look as if he responded immediately to Mitchell’s health emergency, when he did not.

21. An internal report related to these deaths shows that Justice Center staff “recalled all [deceased inmates] acting strangely shortly before they died and in most cases asked for medical assistance that they didn’t receive.”

22. Upon information and belief, St. Louis County has a custom and practice of retaining Justice Center staff who pose a threat to inmates. Upon information and belief, a corrections officer who beat an inmate was not immediately terminated but instead reassigned to the infirmary and was working there at the time of Shy's death.

23. Defendants conduct was wanton, willful, and showed a deliberate indifference to Stout's constitutional rights.

24. Defendants had actual knowledge of a substantial risk that Stout would suffer infection and ultimately serious illness or death from his medical condition and disregarded that risk by intentionally refusing and/or intentionally failing to take reasonable measures to treat his medical condition/problem.

25. Defendants individually and in concert with one another as a result of the customs, usages, and/or practices of Defendant St. Louis County fostered an environment which led to the deliberate indifference to Stout's serious medical needs in contravention of his civil rights.

26. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants acts and/or omissions as set forth herein, Stout died, resulting in Plaintiff's loss of her son.

27. As a direct and proximate result of the acts and/or omissions of Defendants described above, Plaintiff has damages as follows: damages that decedent Stout suffered between the time of his incarceration to the time of his death, and for the recovery of which the decedent might have maintained an action had death not ensued; pecuniary loss suffered by reason of the death of Stout; funeral expenses; and the reasonable value of the consortium, companionship, and comfort of Stout of which Plaintiff has been deprived by reason of his death.

Count I (Individual Defendants):
Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment Violation for Deprivation of Medical Care
Cognizable under 42 U.S.C. § 1983

For Count I of Plaintiff's cause of action against the individual Defendants, Plaintiff states as follows:

28. Plaintiff incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein, the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

29. Stout had a serious need for medical treatment for his perforated duodenal ulcer.

30. Defendants were aware of Plaintiff's serious need for medical care because he had not had a bowel movement in 8 days, repeatedly asked to see the nurse, and was vomiting before he was put in the transport van.

31. Stout's medical need was so obvious that even a layperson would recognize the need for medical care or a doctor's attention, but Defendants refused to provide Stout with medical care/treatment, even when he asked to see the nurse.

32. Defendants had actual knowledge of a substantial risk that the plaintiff would suffer infection and ultimately serious illness of death from his medical condition and disregarded that risk by intentionally refusing and/or intentionally failing to take reasonable measures to treat his medical condition/problem.

33. Following the three inmate deaths and prior to Stout's death, Defendant Doyle was made acting director of the Justice Center on or about April 22, 2019.

34. Defendant Doyle failed to adequately investigate or act upon the deaths of the other inmates denied medical care after he was made acting director of the Justice Center when he had actual notice of the pattern of unconstitutional acts committed by subordinates and demonstrated deliberate indifference to or tacit authorization of the constitutional deprivations by allowing them to continue, resulting in Stout's death.

35. Defendant Doyle failed to take sufficient remedial action to prevent further deaths, to include Stout's.

36. Defendant Doyle failed to properly supervise and train subordinates to report serious medical needs to the Justice Center's medical staff so as to prevent serious medical conditions and/or death.

37. Defendant Doyle's failures were the proximate cause of Stout's death.

38. At all times relevant herein, Defendants acted under color of state law.

39. As a direct and proximate result of the acts and/or omissions of Defendants set forth above, decedent Daniel Stout suffered great personal injury, pain and suffering, and mental anguish prior to his death. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' deliberate indifference to the serious medical needs of Plaintiff's decedent, Stout was forced to suffer the following severe, permanent, and devastating injuries: he was caused to suffer a deterioration of his condition, severe anxiety and distress, severe mental anguish, and all said conditions led to high levels of anxiety and anguish, and these conditions caused him great physical pain and mental suffering prior to his death. Additionally, Defendants' deliberate indifference to the serious medical needs of decedent Stout worsened and exacerbated his condition, causing him great physical pain and mental anguish.

40. As a direct and proximate result of the deliberate indifference to the serious medical needs of Plaintiff's decedent, Stout, Plaintiff has been deprived of decedent's valuable companionship, comfort, consortium, love, and affection.

41. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' deliberate indifference to decedent Stout's serious medical needs, the decedent suffered the loss of life, and with it the loss of future income and enjoyment of life.

42. The conduct of the Defendants as set forth herein was wanton, willful, and showed a deliberate indifference to Stout's constitutional rights as set forth above, justifying an award of punitive damages against them in their individual capacities so as to punish them and to deter them and others from engaging in similar misconduct in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays this Court to enter judgment in her favor and against the individual Defendants and thereafter:

- A. Award Plaintiff compensatory damages and damages for aggravating circumstances against these Defendants in excess of \$25,000;
- B. Award Plaintiff punitive damages;
- C. Award Plaintiff reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and
- D. Allow such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

COUNT II (Defendants County and Doyle):
Municipal Custom and/or Failure to Instruct, Train, Supervise, Control
and/or Discipline Under 42 U.S.C. § 1983

For Count II of Plaintiff's cause of action against Defendants County and Doyle, Plaintiff states as follows:

43. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations made in each preceding paragraph as if each were set forth herein.

44. Stout's constitutional rights were violated as described in detail above.

45. There exists within the Justice Center and/or the County widespread customs, practices and usages that are so pervasive that they constitute the policies of Defendants County and Doyle, which caused the constitutional deprivation set forth above, including, but not limited to:

- a. Ignoring the serious medical needs of Justice Center inmates;

b. Failing to inform medical personnel when an inmate reports a serious medical condition to correction officers or requests medical treatment to ensure that the inmate receives care before it is too late;

c. Upon information and belief, failing to provide nursing care during night hours and/or to properly and adequately staff the Justice Center with medical staff to meet the medical needs of inmates;

d. Medical staff failing to respond to serious medical needs and/or medical emergencies;

e. Ignoring the policies and procedures of the County/Justice Department by encouraging and/or permitting correction officers to ignore serious medical conditions until it is too late to treat them; and

f. Failing to adequately train, supervise, control, and/or discipline correction officers and medical staff concerning the practices described above to assure compliance with County and/or Justice Center policy and the Constitution of the United States.

46. Alternatively, but without waiver of the foregoing, the County's training program was inadequate to train its officers to properly handle the reoccurring situation of inmates' serious medical needs, to include but not necessarily be limited to failing to train correction officers that they are required to report inmate's medical problems/concerns and/or inmate conduct/behaviors that would demonstrate a need for medical care to the medical staff and/or failing to train the medical staff that they must respond to medical issues in a timely fashion.

47. Defendants failure to train in these respects evidenced a deliberate indifference to the rights of others, to include not only Stout but the other inmates who died in 2019.

48. The deficiencies in Defendants' training procedures actually caused Stout's constitutional injuries described above.

49. Additionally, but without waiver of the foregoing, the County, Doyle and/or others failed to supervise, control, and/or discipline corrections officers and medical personnel in the Justice Center when they engaged in constitutional violations like those set forth above, such that they demonstrated a deliberate indifference to or tacit authorization of such acts on the part of the Justice Center.

50. Defendants County and Doyle knew about the conduct at issue herein and facilitated it, approved it, condoned it, or turned a blind eye to it for fear of what they might see.

51. The acts of these Defendants were taken under color of state law.

52. Defendants' failures set forth herein were deliberately indifferent to the rights of inmates, including Stout.

53. As a direct and proximate result of the acts and/or omissions set forth above, decedent Daniel Stout suffered great personal injury, pain and suffering and mental anguish prior to his death. Plaintiffs' decedent, Stout was forced to suffer the following severe, permanent, and devastating injuries: he was caused to suffer a deterioration of his condition, severe anxiety and distress, severe mental anguish, and all said conditions led to high levels of anxiety and anguish, and these conditions caused him great physical pain and mental suffering prior to his death. Defendants' deliberate indifference to the serious medical needs of decedent Stout worsened and exacerbated decedent's condition, causing him great physical pain and mental anguish.

54. As a direct and proximate result of the acts and/or omissions of these Defendants, Plaintiff has been deprived of decedent's valuable companionship, comfort, consortium, love, and affection.

55. As a direct and proximate result of these Defendants' acts and/or omissions, the decedent suffered the loss of life, and with it the loss of future income and enjoyment of life.

56. The conduct of Defendant Doyle as set forth herein was wanton, willful, and showed a deliberate indifference to Stout's constitutional rights as set forth above, justifying an award of punitive damages against him in his individual capacity so as to punish him and to deter him and others from engaging in similar misconduct in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays this Court to enter judgment in her favor and against Defendants County and Doyle and thereafter:

- A. Award Plaintiff compensatory damages and damages for aggravating circumstances against Defendants in excess of \$25,000;
- B. Award Plaintiff punitive damages against Defendant Doyle;
- C. Award Plaintiff reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and
- D. Allow such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

COUNT III (Individual Defendants)
Civil Conspiracy

For Count III of Plaintiff's cause of action against the individual Defendants, Plaintiff states as follows:

57. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations made in each preceding paragraph as if each were set forth herein.

58. Defendants, acting under color of state law, conspired together and amongst themselves and upon information and belief with others both inside and outside the County's employment, to deprive Stout of his constitutional rights and/or protect each other from liability.

59. Defendants shared the general conspiratorial objective which was to deprive Stout of his constitutional rights as set forth above and/or insulate themselves from liability.

60. Defendants furthered the conspiracy by deliberately ignoring Stout's serious medical need, refusing him medical treatment, and/or covering up this misconduct after it occurred to avoid its consequences.

61. As a direct and proximate result of this conspiracy, Stout's constitutional rights were violated and he suffered great personal injury, pain and suffering and mental anguish prior to his death. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' conspiracy Plaintiffs' decedent, Stout was forced to suffer the following severe, permanent, and devastating injuries: Stout was caused to suffer a deterioration of his condition, severe anxiety and distress, severe mental anguish, and all said conditions led to high levels of anxiety and anguish, and these conditions caused him great physical pain and mental suffering prior to his death.

62. As a direct and proximate result of the conspiracy alleged herein, Plaintiff has been deprived of Stout's valuable companionship, comfort, consortium, love, and affection.

63. As a direct and proximate result of the conspiracy alleged herein Stout lost his life, and with it the loss of future income and enjoyment of life.

64. The conduct of the Defendants as set forth herein was wanton, willful, and showed a deliberate indifference to Stout's constitutional rights as set forth above, justifying an award of punitive damages against them in their individual capacities so as to punish them and to deter them and others from engaging in similar misconduct in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays this Court to enter judgment in her favor and against Defendants and thereafter:

- A. Award Plaintiff compensatory damages and damages for aggravating circumstances against Defendants in excess of \$25,000;
- B. Award Plaintiff punitive damages;
- C. Award Plaintiff reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and

D. Allow such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

COUNT IV (against Individual Defendants):
Negligence *Per Se*
Violation of R.S. Mo. § 221.120

For Count IV of Plaintiff's cause of action against the individual Defendants, Plaintiff states as follows:

65. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations made in each preceding paragraph as if each were set forth herein.

66. At all times relevant herein, Section 221.120.1 R.S.Mo. stated that, "[i]f any prisoner confined to the county jail is sick and in the judgment of the jailer, requires the attention of a physician, dental care, or medicine, the jailer shall procure the necessary medicine, dental care or medical attention necessary or proper to maintain the health of the prisoner."

67. Between June 3, 2019 and June 11, 2019, Stout was a detainee and inmate at the Justice Center, and was under the care, custody, and control of Defendants. At some point during this time, Stout was in serious need of medical care, a fact which Defendants knew but failed to provide.

68. Defendants violated R.S.Mo. §221.120 with regard to the rights of inmates to receive necessary and proper medical attention when they refused to provide Stout with the medical care he requested and needed.

69. By enacting §221.120 R.S.Mo., the Missouri legislature intended to protect a class of persons, jail inmates, through the requirement that they be provided necessary medical care/attention.

70. In committing the acts complained of herein, Defendants acted in violation of the duty of care required of them by § 221.120 R.S.Mo., and therefore, in violation of said statute.

71. Upon information and belief, Defendant Doyle was the highest ranking official, had direct management and supervision over the jail staff, and was responsible for ensuring compliance with the laws of the State of Missouri with respect to the jail.

72. Defendants St. Louis County and Doyle implicitly or explicitly adopted customs, practices, and/or usages that allowed correction officers to violate the law of the State of Missouri by failing to procure medical care necessary and proper to maintain the health of prisoners, to include but not be limited to Stout, when judgment showed these inmates required the attention of a physician or medical care.

73. As a direct and proximate result of the violation of § 221.120 set forth above, decedent Daniel Stout suffered great personal injury, pain and suffering and mental anguish prior to his death. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' violation of §221.120, Stout suffered the following severe, permanent, and devastating injuries: Stout was caused to suffer a deterioration of his condition, severe anxiety and distress, severe mental anguish, and all said conditions led to high levels of anxiety and anguish, and these conditions caused him great physical pain and mental suffering prior to his death. Defendants' violation of §221.120 worsened and exacerbated decedent Stout's condition, causing him great physical pain and mental anguish.

74. As a direct and proximate result of the violation of §221.120, Plaintiff has been deprived of decedent Stout's valuable companionship, comfort, consortium, love, and affection.

75. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' violation of §221.120, decedent Stout suffered the loss of life, and with it the loss of future income and enjoyment of life.

76. The conduct of Defendants as set forth above showed complete indifference to or a conscious disregard for the safety of others such that punitive damages are warranted to deter similar misconduct in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays this Court to enter judgment in her favor and against Defendants and thereafter:

- A. Award Plaintiff compensatory damages against Defendants in excess of \$25,000;
- B. Award Plaintiff punitive damages;
- C. Award Plaintiff reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and
- D. Allow such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

COUNT V (against Individual Defendants)
Wrongful Death

For Count V of Plaintiff's cause of action against the individual Defendants, Plaintiff states as follows:

77. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations made in each preceding paragraph as if each were set forth herein.

78. Defendants owed a duty to ensure the safety of inmates and detainees of the Justice Center, specifically Stout. This duty included the duty to report the need for and provide adequate medical care.

79. Defendants breached their duty of care by acts or omissions that included but were not necessarily limited to failing to: provide adequate medical care, properly assess and examine Stout; properly monitor Stout, and/or provide medical care to Stout when he was obviously ill and requested to see the nurse.

80. Defendants breach of their duty of care was the cause in fact and proximate cause of Stout's death.

81. Stout suffered damages to include but not be limited to physical and mental pain and loss of future income as a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' breach of their duty of care.

82. Plaintiff is entitled to recover fair and reasonable damages against Defendants as provided for in § 537.080 R.S.Mo. for the wrongful injuries to and the wrongful death of Stout, including special damages for his funeral and burial.

83. Plaintiff has been deprived of decedent's valuable companionship, comfort, consortium, love, and affection as a result of Stout's death.

84. The conduct of the Defendants as set forth herein was willful, malicious, oppressive, and reckless and are of such nature that punitive damages should be imposed in the amount commensurate with the wrongful acts.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants, and each of them jointly and severally, for damages in a fair and reasonable sum in excess of \$25,000.00, their costs incurred herein, punitive damages, and for such other relief as is deemed appropriate by the court.

COUNT VI
Violation of the Missouri Sunshine Law
(Against St. Louis County)
Failure to produce documents responsive to Sunshine Request

For Count VI of Plaintiff's cause of action against Defendant St. Louis County, Plaintiff states as follows:

85. Shortly after Stout's death, Plaintiff, by and through her attorneys, served a Sunshine Law request upon Defendant Doyle, Custodian of Records for St. Louis County, on or about June 19, 2019. It sought a variety of general and special information relating to the operations of the St. Louis County Justice Center and jail operations. *See attached Exhibit 1.*

86. Neither Defendant Doyle, nor St. Louis County, replied to Plaintiff's attorney's Sunshine Law request.

87. Missouri's Sunshine Law provides that "all public records of public governmental bodies ... be open to the public for inspection and copying," §610.011.1-2, R.S.Mo, and that its provisions in favor of disclosure "be liberally construed and [its] exceptions strictly construed to promote this public policy." § 610.011.1

88. Plaintiff served twenty-four requests for records on Defendant Doyle and St. Louis County for records as mundane as "St. Louis County Jail budgets for the past three years." See Exhibit 1, Request No. 22.

89. Plaintiff's first request asked for "bids, contracts, and invoices for the past three years between St. Louis County and any medical service provider to the St. Louis County Jail, including but not limited to hospitals, doctors, nurses, ambulance, transportation, and physician assistants." See Exhibit 1, Request No. 1.

90. By way of further example, Request No. 4 sought "All records showing the daily or weekly inmate population over the past twelve months." See Exhibit 1.

91. Defendants Doyle and St. Louis County failed to respond to any of Plaintiff's requests.

92. Plaintiff requested "public records of [a] public governmental bod[y]" that are required by law to be made "open to the public for inspection and copying." § 610.011.2, R.S.Mo.

93. Defendants Doyle and St. Louis County failed to produce any of the requested records.

94. Plaintiff's requests are subject to disclosure under the Sunshine Law as "public records," because they are "retained by or of [a] public governmental body," which includes St.

Louis County, §610.010.6, R.S.Mo., and they are not protected from disclosure by any lawful exemption.

95. The Sunshine Law provides that “[i]t is the public policy of this state that meetings, records, votes, actions, and deliberations of public governmental bodies be open to the public unless otherwise provided by law,” and that “all public records of public governmental bodies ... be open to the public for inspection and copying.” § 610.011.1-2, R.S.Mo.

96. The Sunshine Law requires that its provisions in favor of disclosure “be liberally construed and their exceptions strictly construed to promote this public policy.” § 610.011.1, R.S.Mo. For example, “[i]f a public record contains material which is not exempt from disclosure as well as material which is exempt from disclosure, the public governmental body shall separate the exempt and nonexempt material and make the nonexempt material available for examination and copying.” §610.024.1, R.S.Mo.

97. The Sunshine Law authorizes the recovery of attorneys’ fees and costs when a public governmental body knowingly violates its provisions, § 610.027.3, R.S.Mo., and mandates such recovery for purposeful violations of the law. § 610.027.4, R.S.Mo.

98. The Sunshine Law authorizes the Court to impose a civil penalty if the Court finds that the public governmental body knowingly or purposely violated sections 610.010 to 610.026, R.S.Mo. §§ 610.027.3, 610.027.4, R.S.Mo.

99. St. Louis County purposely violated the Sunshine Law by failing to produce any records to Plaintiff in response to the Sunshine Request.

100. Alternatively, but without waiver of the foregoing, St. Louis County knowingly violated the Sunshine Law by failing to produce any records to Plaintiff in response to the Sunshine Request.

101. Defendant St. Louis County possesses documents responsive to the Sunshine Request, and records requested are clearly open records under the Sunshine law.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Angela Malcich respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in her favor, declaring that records requested by her, through counsel, are open records under the Sunshine Law; finding St. Louis County purposefully, or at least knowingly violated the Sunshine Law; ordering St. Louis County to permit Angela Malcich to inspect and copy records responsive to her Sunshine Law Request; and ordering St. Louis County to pay Plaintiff's attorneys' fees and costs, along with a civil penalty and such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

PLEBAN & PETRUSKA LAW, LLC

by: /s/ J.C. Pleban

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Attorneys for Plaintiff

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned counsel hereby certifies that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing was served upon all counsel of record via the Federal Electronic Filing System on this 11th day of December, 2020.

/s/ J.C. Pleban